

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka et al. (U.S. 6,104,451) in view of Min (U.S. 6,024,335) and Kim et al. (U.S. 6,498,718). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because none of the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a hinge mechanism attached to the attaching section of the frame, as in claim 6 of the present invention, as amended.

Independent claim 6 of the present invention as been amended to clarify that the hinge mechanism attaches to an attaching section of the frame, and that this attaching section is a substantially flat plate extending outward from a central portion of the frame parallel to the plane of the display surface. Support for these clarifying amendments can be found at Figs. 15, 17, and 20 of the present Application, and the accompanying text. These drawings illustrate, for example, the attaching section 72 being part of the frame, but extending outward from a central portion of one side of the frame in a direction parallel to the display surface of the panel. None of the cited references, alone or together, teach or suggest all of these features.

Matsuoka does not show any flat portion extending from the frame that is inside of a display housing. Min appears to show a frame (not numbered) for its liquid crystal panel 11 inside front and rear cases 12, 13 (see Fig. 4), but does not show any flat frame portion extending from a central portion of any side of the frame. More particularly,

Min does not show any portion of the frame attaching to the hinge mechanism 41. As previously discussed, the hinge mechanism 41 attaches to the rear case 13, and not to any portion of the frame.

The newly cited Kim reference illustrates, in its discussion of the prior art, that the mounting flanges 114b are generally flat plates that extend outward from the frame 114 in a direction generally parallel to the panel 112. However, Kim clearly shows that the flanges 114b are located only at the far corners of the frame 114, and not at a central portion of the frame. Accordingly, none of the cited references, whether taken alone or together, teach or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 6 of the present invention, which would be required to maintain a *prima facie* case of obviousness under section 2143.03 of the MPEP. Accordingly, the outstanding section 103 rejection of claim 6, and its dependent claims 10-12, is respectfully traversed.

Additionally, the Section 103 rejection of claim 6 (and its dependent claims) should be withdrawn because it would not be obvious to derive the present invention from any proposed combination of the three cited references. Fig. 3A of Kim further shows that the hinge arm 126 is required to be located between the display case 122 and the frame 114. According to this configuration, the frame 114 is smaller than the case 122 that encloses the frame. According to claim 6 of the present invention, on the other hand, the attaching section of the angle changing mechanism is at an extended part of the frame, and because no hinge is required to be located between the panel and the frame, the liquid crystal panel can be made significantly larger than that shown by Kim, or the other prior art references. Nothing cited

by the Examiner from the other prior art references overcomes this clear problem from the Kim reference in particular, and therefore the obviousness of the proposed combination had been sufficiently rebutted.

Lastly, Applicants wish to note, that by locating the attaching section at the central portion of the frame parameter, the mount can support the liquid crystal display unit without limiting the size or accessibility of the unit. As discussed above, the location of the Examiner's proposed "attaching sections" in the prior art references prohibit these advantageous results realized by the present invention from its novel structure.

Claims 7, 9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka, Min, and Kim, and further in view of Kanbe (JP 7-56516). All of claims 7, 9, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice herein, rendering this rejection now moot. The Kanbe reference is discussed further below with respect to new claim 14.

New claim 14 has been added to recite another combination of features of the present invention. Claim 14 is similar to claim 6, above, except that the attaching section of claim 14 is recited to more clearly correspond to the embodiments shown in Figs. 18-19 of the present Application and their equivalents, for example. Applicants submit that the Examiner's comments with respect to claims 7, 9, and 13 of the present invention acknowledge that none of Matsuoka, Min, and Kim teach or suggest these features of the present invention.

With respect to the Kanbe reference, however, Applicants submit that none of the cited illustrations from Kanbe correspond to the recited limitations of claim 14. Kanbe

does not appear to show any flat plate attaching sections on the rear side of the frame 22 that are parallel to the claim of the display surface. The raised portions of the frame 22 that extend away from the rear surface are shown in at least Fig. 3 of Kanbe to be in plane that is not parallel to the plane of the display panel by at least an angle α . Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claim 14 is allowable over all of the cited prior art of record. Entry, consideration, and allowance of new claim 14 are all respectfully requested.

New claims 15-19 have been added to depend directly or indirectly from one of dependent claims 6 and 14. Support for these dependent claims can be found at least in pages 11-13 of the present Specification, and the accompanying drawings. These claims should all be condition for patentability for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to their base claims. Entry, consideration on the merits, and allowance of new dependent claims 15-19 is also respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 6, 10-12, and 14, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer No. 24978

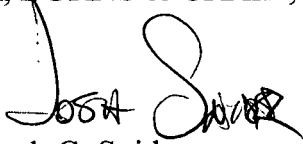
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300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

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GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By


Josh C. Snider
Registration No. 47,954